loan during 2007-08 on following components in Kasaragode, Palakkad and Wayanad districts of Kerala:

(i) Induction of high yielding milch animals

(ii) Calf rearing programme

(iii) Providing cattle/buffalo breeding services

(iv) Provision of health care to dairy animals

(v) Establishment of milk chilling units

(vi) Feed and fodder supply programme

(vii) Establishment of fodder block making units

(viii) Fisheries programme

(c) No, Sir.

MSP of Pulses, Oil-seeds, etc.

*366. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the traders in the country are feeding on high food prices but the farmers are made to starve due to Government policy of not making any increase in the MPS of pulses, oil-seeds and rice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that although the price of tur dal has increased by Rs. 4 per kg. this year, the Ministry allowed only 10 paise per kg. increase for the farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take so that farmers in the country get a good price for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities, including pulses, oilseeds and paddy, taking into account the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors, which in the opinion of

the Government, are important for fixation of MSPs. The MSP thus fixed is a guaranteed minimum price which the farmers are offered by the designated Central and State agencies in the event market prices tend to fall below that level. However, if the market price is more than the MSP fixed by the Government, farmers are free to realize a higher price by selling their produce in the open market.

With the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act for deregulation of the marketing system, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers. As a result of this and the emerging demand-supply gap, the prices in the market during the harvesting season also are ruling above MSP and benefiting the farmers.

Supply to States for Distribution to BPL people

*367. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total supply of wheat, sugar, rice, kerosene made available to the State Governments for distribution through fair price shops for BPL people during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the total procurement of wheat, rice and pulses made by Government agencies during the above period at minimum support price, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The details of the total supply of wheat, sugar, rice, kerosene made available to the State Governments for distribution through fair price shops for the persons below proverty line from 2002-03 to 2006-07, State-wise and year-wise are given in the Statement-I (*see* below).

(b) The details of the total procurement of wheat, rice and pulses made by Government agencies during the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 at minimum support price, year-wise are given in the Statement-II.